

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 103 (Cancelled)

104. (New) A method of removing a residual gas from inside a conventional shipping container after a period of time in which goods were located in the container, comprising:
- opening an end door of the container;
 - removably coupling a panel to the door opening of the container, the panel having a gas inlet and a gas outlet;
 - whereby said panel is attached around the perimeter of the door opening with a gas-tight seal;
 - extracting at least some of the residual gas present in the container via the gas outlet; and
 - providing a flow of a flushing gas into the container via the gas inlet to flush residual gas from the container.
105. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein extracting the residual gas reduces pressure in the container below ambient atmospheric pressure.
106. (New) The method of claim 105, wherein once the gas pressure inside the container reaches a predetermined value, the flow of flushing gas is initiated, and pressure inside the container increases.
107. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein a flow rate or gas pressure within the container is monitored and controlled.
108. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein a majority of the residual gas present in the container is extracted.
109. (New) The method of claim 104, further comprising absorbing/adsorbing at least part of the residual gas extracted from the container into/onto an absorbent/adsorbent.
110. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein substantially all of the extracted residual gas is absorbed/adsorbed into/onto the absorbent/adsorbent.
111. (New) The method of claim 109, further comprising washing the absorbent/adsorbent, decomposing the absorbed/adsorbed residual gas and discarding the absorbent/adsorbent.

112. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein the gas outlet is located lower on the panel relative to the gas inlet.
113. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein said panel contains a plurality of subpanels.
114. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein the flushing gas is atmospheric air.
115. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein the concentration of residual gas in the container is monitored.
116. (New) The method of claim 104, further comprising pumping the flushing gas into the container through the gas inlet.
117. (New) The method of claim 104, further comprising pumping residual gas out of the container through the gas outlet.
118. (New) The method of claim 104, further comprising pumping the flushing gas into the container through the gas inlet and pumping residual gas out of the container through the gas outlet.
119. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein the concentration of residual gas in the container is monitored.
120. (New) A method of removing a residual gas from inside a conventional shipping container after a period of time in which goods were located in the container, comprising:
opening an end door of the container;
removably coupling a panel to the door opening of the container, the panel having a gas inlet and a gas outlet;
whereby said panel is attached around the perimeter of the door opening with a gas-tight seal;
introducing a flow of flushing gas into the container via the gas inlet, then
removing residual gas and flushing gas from the container via the gas outlet.
121. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein a flow rate or gas pressure within the container is monitored and controlled.
122. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein a majority of the residual gas present in the container is extracted.

123. (New) The method of claim 120, further comprising absorbing/adsorbing at least part of the residual gas extracted from the container into/onto an absorbent/adsorbent.
124. (New) The method of claim 123, wherein substantially all of the extracted residual gas is absorbed/adsorbed into/onto the absorbent/adsorbent.
125. (New) The method of claim 123, further comprising washing the absorbent/adsorbent, decomposing the absorbed/adsorbed residual gas and discarding the absorbent/adsorbent.
126. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein the gas outlet is located lower on the panel relative to the gas inlet.
127. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein said panel contains a plurality of subpanels.
128. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein the flushing gas is atmospheric air.
129. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein the concentration of residual gas in the container is monitored.
130. (New) The method of claim 120, further comprising pumping flushing gas into the container through the gas inlet.
131. (New) The method of claim 120, further comprising pumping residual gas out of the container through the gas outlet.
132. (New) The method of claim 120, further comprising pumping flushing gas into the container through the gas inlet and pumping residual gas out of the container through the gas outlet.
133. (New) An apparatus for removing residual gas from a conventional shipping container, comprising:
- a panel that can be removably coupled to an end door opening of a conventional shipping container, which is attached around the perimeter of said door opening with a gas-tight seal;
 - said panel having a gas inlet for introducing a flow of flushing gas into the container, and a gas outlet for removing residual gas from the container;
 - a device for monitoring gas pressure inside the container;

a controller for controlling the flow of gasses in or out of the container, in response to monitored pressure inside the container.

134. (New) The apparatus of claim 133, further comprising and absorption/adsorption apparatus for absorbing/adsorbing residual gas extracted from the container.

135. (New) The apparatus of claim 134, wherein the absorption/adsorption apparatus comprises a bed of activated carbon.

136. (New) The method of claim 133, wherein the gas outlet is located lower on the panel relative to the gas inlet.

137. (New) The method of claim 133, wherein said panel contains a plurality of subpanels.

138. (New) The apparatus of claim 133, further comprising a framework that is mountable onto a surface and sequentially located adjacent to different shipping containers, wherein the panel is movably mounted on the framework.

139. (New) The apparatus of claim 138, wherein said movable mounting pivots the panel for coupling it to the end door opening of the container.